

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DIA PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

COMUSFORAZ LAJES PRIORITY

CGUSAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GERMANY/INCF PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMMAC SCOTT AFB PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 249143

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO LONDON, MADRID, TEL AVIV,
TRIPOLI, TUNIS, NATO, USUN, LUANDA, LOURENCO MARQUES, OPORTO,
PONTA DELGADA, NOV 12, FROM LISBON RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T LISBON 4925

EXDIS

DEPT. PLEASE PASS:

DIA WASHDC

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

COMUSFORAZ LAJES AZ

CGUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY

USDOCOCINCSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY/IN

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GERMANY/INCF
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMMAC SCOTT AFB ILLINOIS

MILITARY ADDESS ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJ: POSSIBLE GOP RESTRICTIONS ON US USE OF LAJES

REF: LISBON 4450

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DRAWING ON NEWS AGENCY REPORTS, ESPECIALLY LIBYAN AGENCY ARNA, LISBON PRESS NOVEMBER 11 QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES AS STATING DURING FIRST DAY OF CURRENT VISIT TO LIBYA THAT PORTUGAL IS PREPARED SERVE AS LINK BETWEEN EUROPE AND ARAB STATES. SOARES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT PORTUGAL HAD RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION RELATIVE TO MIDEAST PROBLEM AND WOULD SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CAUSE IN FORTHCOMING UNGA DEBATE.

2. REPORTING ON PRESS CONFERENCE HELD NOVEMBER 9 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM TUNIS, SOARES WAS ASKED IF NEW GOP WOULD AGAIN PERMIT US TO UTILIZE AZORES TO SUPPLY WAR MATERIEL TO ISRAEL AS DURING YOM KIPPUR WAR. SOARES REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT PROPHECY HOW GOP WOULD REACT IF SITUATION LIKE OCTOBER 1973 SHOULD RECUR, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRESENT DEMOCRATIC PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION IS EXTREMELY JEALOUS OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NEW PORTUGAL. IN FURTHER REFERENCE TO LAJES AND NATO, SOARES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT LISBON WILL CONTINUE FAITHFUL TO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE US, BUT THAT IT IS INDEPENDENT IN THE POLICIES IT FOLLOWS. "THE AZORES BASE, EXACTLY LIKE OUR FIDELITY TO NATO, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES OF THE LEFT IN ORDER THAT WE NOT ADD MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEMS TO THOSE WHICH THE COUNTRY NOW FACES, SUCH AS DECOLONIZATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION." HE ADDED THAT PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN GOP DID NOT THREATEN
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NATO SECRETS, GUARANTEES OF WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO NATO
SYG. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: SOARES HAS IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS REPEATEDLY ANSWERED QUESTIONS CONCERNING US USE OF LAJES FOR RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL WITH ASSERTIONS OF PORTUGAL'S

SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND NEED CONSIDER QUESTION IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME. GROWING COZINESS OF PORTUGAL TOWARD ARAB STATES, EVIDENT FROM SOARES' VISIT TO TUNISIA AND LIBYA AND, ESPECIALLY, STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, MAKES IT INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL THAT PORTUGAL WOULD GIVE GREEN LIGHT FOR RENEWED RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL VIA LAJES. VALUE OF AZORES AGREEMENT FOR ISRAELI RESUPPLY IN FUTURE WOULD THUS SEEM TO HINGE ON (A) WHETHER ANY REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR PERMISSION FOR SUCH USE IS PRESENT IN NEW ACCORD OR IN NEGOTIATING HISTORY AND (B) WHETHER US IS PREPARED TO RISK REPERCUSSIONS IN PORTUGAL BY PROCEEDING WITH AIRLIFT WITHOUT ASKING PERMISSION IN LIKELIHOOD PERMISSION WOULD BE DENIED. UNQUOTE SCOTT. KISSINGER

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30 JUN 2005

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